



Cautiously Optimistic!

LightSquared Update

All,

Some of you may have heard the word about the FCC pulling the plug on LightSquared. The FCC said its decision was based on a report yesterday (Feb. 14) by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) whereby they reported "there is no practical way to mitigate the potential interference at this time" with global positioning devices. The NTIA is the agency that manages government spectrum. Thus the FCC plans to "suspend indefinitely" LightSquared's conditional waiver to operate as a ground-based broadband network. Also, the National Executive Committee for space-based PNT (positioning, navigation, & timing) concluded that, "there appear to be no practical solutions or mitigations that would permit the LightSquared broadband service to operate in the next few months or years without significantly interfering with GPS." I have phoned a contact at the PNT for confirmation who tells me this is correct and that the FCC will hold a public comment period. You can read more about this issue by logging onto www.gps.gov which is an official U.S. Government GPS website.

The bottom line is that LightSquared is not going to happen in the near future and the immediate threat is relieved. A wood stake has been effectively driven into the heart of LightSquared. As Eric Gakstatter of GPS World e-mailed me a few minutes ago, "You can look at this as the beginning of a new era in GNSS for us. The key is that we have a seat at the table when spectrum discussions are taking place, unlike

the past 10 years when we were left out. We can't count on the US GPS Industry Council to represent high-precision users."

Eric will have more to say about this in a couple of days after we see what comes out of the FCC. At that time Eric will draft a letter that we can send out to the NSPS membership regarding the status of the LightSquared situation.

All of these events illustrate how important the NSPS is, and will continue to be, to every land surveyor and associated professional throughout the United States and Canada.

David

NSPS Governor - Virginia

David L. Holland, LS

Henrico County Surveyor

10431 Woodman Road

Richmond, Virginia 23273

804-727-8289

Latitude N 37-39-14

Longitude W 77-29-17

331 S. White Street • PO Box 2101 • Wake Forest, NC 27588
P: (919) 556-9848 • F: (919) 556-9888 • E: info@ncsurveyors.com